

20 YEARS!

1987-2007

C&N

1036



Terminator 2
Infinity

Darn Skynet and those pesky Terminators of theirs. Just when you think they're all gone away and the future is safe, here comes the evil corporate master and its high-tech killing machines to make the world unsafe for all things organic!

A few months ago, fans learned that Fox had given the green light to a pilot for *The Sarah Connor Chronicles*, a series set between the events of *Terminator 2: Judgment Day* and *Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines*. Well, it appears that Skynet is going multimedia, because they're also making a return in comic book form with the launch of Dynamite Entertainment's *Terminator 2: Infinity*, an ongoing series.

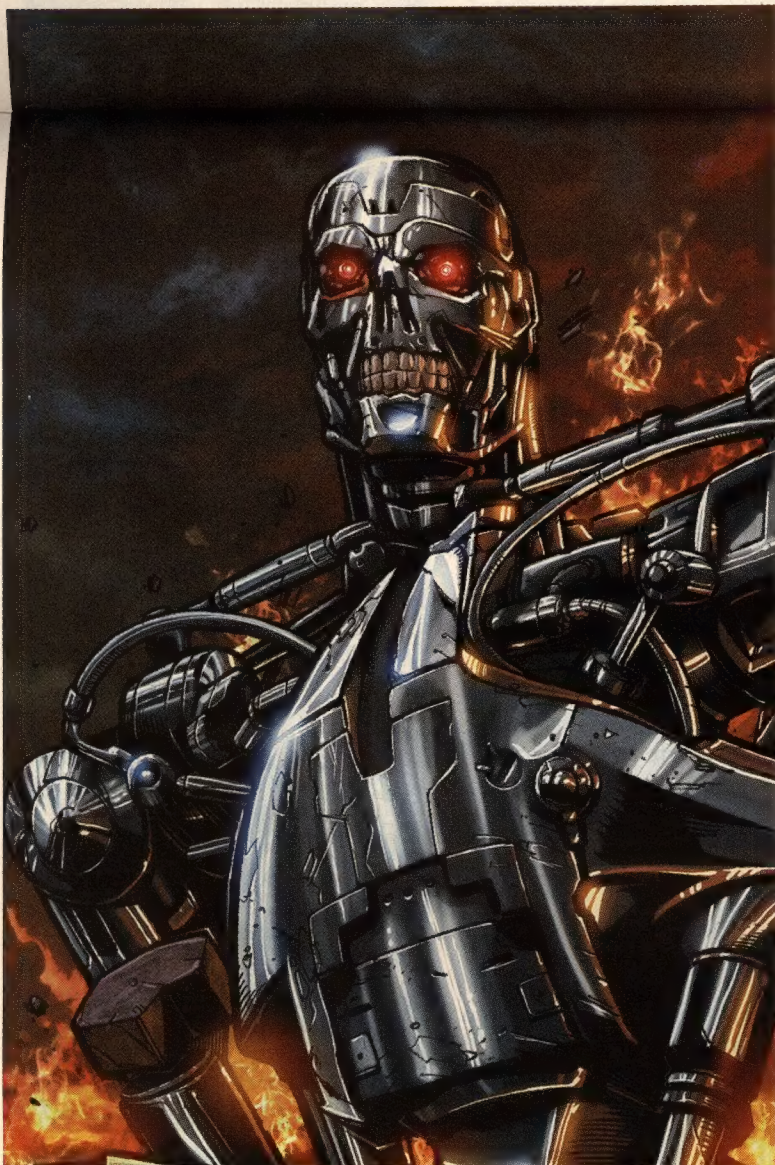
Publisher Nick Barrucci explained what the focus of the series will be. "Our focus is on the characters and histories as they were introduced in *T2: Judgment Day*. Since the whole franchise deals with time travel, however, we're able to bounce around in the timeline a bit. So, we have an older John Connor, who's dealing with the after-effects of the Skynet-initiated nuclear holocaust, and a few other familiar faces—along with some new ones."

How did Dynamite land the high-profile Terminator license, previously held by Dark Horse? "We've worked with the licensor previously on some projects and started talking about doing the comics," Barrucci said. "From there it was just a matter of putting the deal together and coming up with a story and team to make it work—which we think we've done."

While the comic book series and *The Sarah Connor*



Terminator Un-Terminated for Dynamite Comics Series



Chronicles both build from events featured in *T2*, readers shouldn't expect to see the two series cross over. "That would be a separate deal," Barrucci said, "although again, much of this groundwork for the timeline and the history was laid in *T2* itself."

Writer Simon Furman explained how extensively *Terminator* continuity is integrated into the series. "In a word, fully," Furman said. "Though the core license is *T2*, I'm drawing on elements from all the movies, and rolling things out in a way that works with almost everything that's already been established. Though we are taking one or two creative liberties along the way—hey, the future's not set!—this is very much the next chapter in the life (and ordeals) of John Connor. Also, there's a key story thread in *T2: Infinity* that very much places the three movies in context."

The fact that time travel is crucial to the storyline, as Barrucci indicated previously, offers all sorts of creative possibilities. "If anything, I used that constant balancing act of time travel versus time paradoxes to initiate the action in *T2: Infinity*. Let's just say that, due to its tampering in this and that era, Skynet has to do some urgent 'housekeeping.' That then plays into the post-*Judgment Day*/Crystal Peak John Connor arc."

So which Skynet future is Furman using in *Infinity*? "We're pretty much in two eras of Skynet—

the first being after the so-called victory over Skynet (circa 2030 or so), and the second post-Crystal Peak, circa 2009, at which point Skynet is just getting into its mankind-eradicating stride."

The protagonist of the new series is "John Connor, of course," Furman said. "I pretty much regard the whole Terminator saga as his story, with Terminators in it. He's key to the whole thing, and I felt it would have been very difficult to do an in-continuity Terminator story without him. Oh, and there's a pair of Terminators, one very much along the lines of something we've seen before, the other very much something we've not seen before."

The first storyline is "essentially John Connor's first stumbling steps, post-*Judgment Day*, on the road to becoming the resistance leader who brings Skynet to its (virtual) knees," Furman explained. "Imagine stepping out into a post-nuclear holocaust world and just thinking, 'yeah, I'll have it tidied up in no time.' It was never going to be that easy, and it's not. Especially when further-into-the-future-Skynet's efforts to avert an even greater catastrophe collide spectacularly with John's own more personal crisis of confidence. I played around with titles like 'Trial by Fire' and 'Cauldron,' so you get the idea."

Terminator 2: Infinity is illustrated by Nigel Raynor, who explained how he landed the assignment. "I was just coming off my run on *Battlestar Galactica* (13 issues, counting the #0) and the goodly folk at Dynamite called me up and offered me Terminator. A big, fat 'yes, please!' later and bish-bosh, I was on the

book. I'm cornering the market in homicidal cyborgs!

"I've loved *Terminator* since the original came out and this is chance to draw all the stuff I like best. Post apocalyptic cities, killer robots, military mech, double-hard tough guys and guns...lots of guns!"

Will Raynor be utilizing any cinematic likenesses in the series? "Well, John Connor's there, but it's a while after we left him at Crystal Peak and the poor fella's been through the wringer, and that can change a man's appearance, so I wouldn't call it a likeness as such. Other than that, it's a whole new cast set into the existing continuity—which is obviously great fun to play with."

Is Raynor working with the familiar Terminators from the films, or is getting a chance to create some new models? "No, they're all new designs. There's a new T-800 who's every inch the complete badass, and then there's a new model Terminator that I can't say too much about other than that it's totally unlike anything Skynet's rolled off the assembly line before... and did I mention the guns?"

Terminator 2: Infinity, a \$3.50 comic, is scheduled for June release; the first issue will ship with multiple covers featuring the art of Pat Lee, Stjepan Sejic, and Nigel Raynor.

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

McKeever Wings It on Birds of Prey

After an impressive run of more than fifty issues, writer Gail Simone has confirmed that she is leaving *Birds of Prey* in the near future—but readers disappointed in her departure can take heart that DC has tapped one of their best character-driven-storytellers, the newly exclusive Sean McKeever, to pick up after Simone's departure.

The news of the change first crept out in Dan DiDio's *DC Nation* column in early April. Simone explained to *Comic Shop Newsarama's* Matt Brady why she was leaving the book, and how difficult it was for her to give up the title. "This is hard stuff," she said. "I am deliriously happy with both Nicola Scott's interiors and Stephane Roux's covers. I think we actually have one of the snappiest and most brilliant art teams going, in fact, and it really reinvigorated my love for the book. We had some long term plans, including a cool story where Babs realizes that far, far too many people know Oracle exists, a plotline we've been building to for a long time. And the new characters have been a blast. Misfit is adored and loathed in approximately equal numbers, which I love, and Manhunter and Barda have just been a joy to write..."

"But the truth of this matter is, I was simply offered a project I couldn't turn down. A dream book with a dream art team, and a real chance to reshape comics' history. DC's always been great to me, but this is just...insane. It's unbelievably exciting. And I want to pour everything I've got into it. I had to let something go, and for reasons that I think will make more sense as things

Comic Shop Newsarama

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with Matt Brady and newsarama.com



are revealed, it meant letting go of some beloved bird friends of mine.

"It's hard, really hard. These crazy dames have really gotten in my head, and rarely left my brain for even an hour in the last few years. But the plus is, I got to tell the huge story I wanted to tell, the 'Rise of The Canary,' over nearly fifty issues. That's a rare and thrilling deal."

The new project came up, forcing Simone to make her decision on short notice. "On my recent visit to New York, Dan [DiDio] asked me into his office and made the proposal, and my eyes just bugged out of my skull. I couldn't turn it down. It's something that almost feels like destiny, as goofy as that sounds, like something I've been working towards my entire career as a writer.

"But we're actually at a perfect point for me to leave, and they're letting me leave the book when and in the manner of my choosing. Dan's always been a huge supporter of my work on *Birds of Prey*, and he knows how important this is to me.

"Man alive—are we going out with a bang! This is absolutely the most fun I've ever had on an arc on the book. Not just because it guest stars the Secret Six. Not just because I got to write Hawkgirl. Not because we brought back one of the great JLI characters. Not because I got to write Helena throwing a meatball at Catman's head, but because the art team of Nicola Scott & Doug Hazlewood has delivered something exquisite on every page..."

Simone is pleased to be passing the book on to Sean McKeever. "I've been a fan of Sean's for a long time, and it's the main reason I'm not inconsolable. This is the guy who wrote some of the best

female characterization ever over at Marvel, and that's just a fact. With all due respect, there are a lot of writers whom I know would be a bad fit for the book. Sean's one of the handful where I actually breathe a huge sigh of relief, and can't wait to see what he comes up with.

"Plus, he's got Nicola, so you know it's going to continue to look kickass. I honestly feel she's the next big thing. She draws facial expressions at the level of Kevin Maguire, and her action work is unbelievable. It's a great team. I honestly feel tremendous relief that this is who is taking over."

"I love what Gail's done with the series; it's no secret that I'm a big fan of her writing," McKeever told *Comic Shop Newsarama's* Vaneta Rogers, adding that he's been communicating with Simone during the transition. "I know how important this series has been to Gail, and I value her input greatly."

McKeever also said he's a huge Barbara Gordon fan. "I've been a fan of Barbara Gordon since that *Batgirl Special* with the Mike Mignola cover," he said. "I can't remember if that came out before *The Killing Joke*, but her part in that story also really affected me. And I love what's been done with her in general, really showing her inner strength and character."

While the running joke since McKeever's move from Marvel to DC is that McKeever doesn't know the DC characters, he admitted that he's a lot more familiar with them than he's let on, particularly the Birds. Since he signed the DC exclusive late last year, McKeever said he's been cramming on everything DC to make sure he understands the characters, their history and DC continuity. "I've been reading DC trades nonstop since I signed on with them," he said. "A character's past makes them who they are, and so I like to experience that past as in-depth as I can. At the same time, you can't let continuity become your master. It's a great storytelling tool when used correctly."

McKeever explained how he landed the assignment. "Dan brought me in to Mike Carlin's office and he, Tom Palmer, and I had a nice, long talk about *Birds of Prey*, where Gail had taken it, and that they were interested in seeing where I'd take the title from there," he said. McKeever feels that one reason he was tapped for the gig is that "I'm often associated with strong female protagonists, whether it's Mystique or Mary Jane or Lora Halstead. Plus, I tend to be

comfortable with an ensemble cast and I love digging deep into characters and exploring who they are. While the stories may be action-packed, you can be sure I'm always thinking about how the story affects the characters, and vice versa."

With McKeever slated to take over beginning with November's *Birds of Prey* #112, Simone still has a few issues to go—and she has big plans for those issues. "*Birds of Prey* #104 is probably the biggest response to a single issue we've ever done, and it actually gets a bit crazier. And the climax of this story is going to put monster smiles on the faces of every *Birds of Prey* reader, I believe. It's the Six vs. the Birds. It's Tora Olafsdottir returning. It's Hawkgirl, and a still-to-be-revealed final member of the Six, and finally, it's Oracle having a friendly chat with Spy Smasher that's going to be quite memorable."

Harryhausen's Making Waves at BlueWater

A few weeks ago, CSN told you about acclaimed filmmaker (and special effects legend) Ray Harryhausen's upcoming projects with BlueWater Entertainment. Now Harryhausen has found time in his schedule to talk with CSN about these projects and how they came about?

How did Harryhausen first become involved with BlueWater? "[Publisher] Darren Davis approached me and my representative, Arnold Kunert, in April 2006 when I was in Bellingham, Washington, on a book tour promoting 'The Art of Ray Harryhausen.' Darren's ideas seemed very interesting, so we decided to work with him!"

Is this Harryhausen's first venture into comics? "This is the first time I've been involved with the creation of



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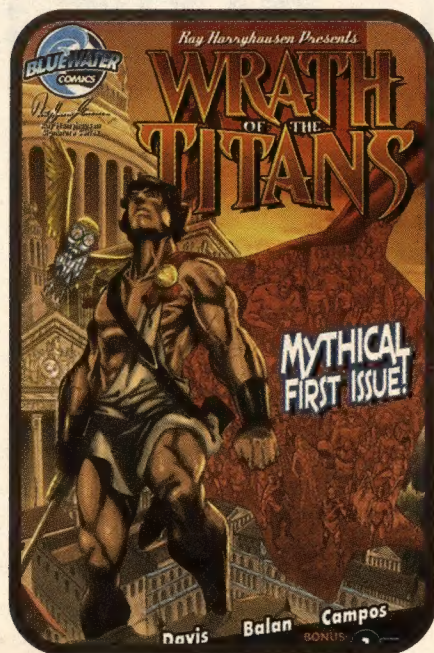
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comics," he said. "In the 1950s and 1960s, the studios releasing my films often released a comic book based on the films. They were usually published by Dell Comics. Among the titles were *Seventh Voyage of Sinbad*, *Three Worlds of Gulliver*, and *Mysterious Island*."

Does Harryhausen read comics on a regular basis? "I don't read comics, but I appreciate good artwork—and today's comics seem to have very good art work."



Harryhausen stresses that he is actively involved with these books, rather than merely lending his name to other creators' projects. "This is not just a license," he said. "We are pretty hands-on. Darren and his artists will work out the plot details, but Arnold and I will have final approval of the story lines. Along with these approvals, I am also putting some of my original artwork in the books. We have given them some perimeters of which characters and stories to use. And we are looking to develop some of these properties as films with Darren as well."

Which books will Harryhausen be working on with BlueWater? "The comics that we have slated initially are *Wrath of the Titans*, *Sinbad Rogue of Mars*, *20 Million Miles More*, *Back to Mysterious Island*, *The Elementals*, *Jason and the Argonauts: Kingdom of Hades*, and *The 10th Muse*."

Will there be any other Harryhausen-focused bonuses in these comics? "In addition to the inclusion of some of my original artwork, as I mentioned already, BlueWater is also doing mini-stories in the back of the comics based on some of my early work. And Darren has also said that some of my art will be used as cover images," Harryhausen explained.

The first Harryhausen BlueWater project, *Ray Harryhausen Presents Wrath of the Titans*, is scheduled for late May release. *Ray Harryhausen Presents 20 Million Miles More* follows in late June.

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Coming Comics—Dark Horse in July

Jim Silke combines an insightful look at the career of Bettie Page with oodles of his own striking artwork in *Bettie Page Rules!*, a 128-page oversized trade paperback. And if that's not enough, there's also an all-new selection of never-before-seen photos of Bettie, painstakingly gathered from private collections.



The *Peanuts* statue series continues with *Classic Peanuts Character #10: Sally*. This syroco-styled piece is limited to a mere 650 units and is packaged in a custom-tooled, full-color, litho-printed tin box. Also included is a small booklet about each character and a vintage-style pinback button of the character.

Paul Sammon takes a look at the 75-year literary career of Robert E. Howard's most famous creation in *Conan the Phenomenon*, a 200-page hardcover that features a cover painting by Frank Frazetta. This in-depth tour through the history of fantasy's greatest hero covers everything from the earliest prose, to Frazetta's explosive artwork, through the Schwarzenegger film, and into the recent rebirth of the character as a lead-



ing comic-book hero. Acclaimed author Michael Moorcock supplies the introduction.

Adam Warren continues the misadventures of a distress-prone girl wonder in *Empowered Volume Two*. Clad—or unclad, as fate would too often have it—in her embarrassingly revealing and maddeningly unreliable super-suit, she fights a never-ending battle against overly sensitive supervillains, irrationally envious superheroines, and her own body-image issues!

At long last, Eric Powell is back with new adventures of The Goon beginning with the release of *The Goon #19*. The regular ongoing series picks up right where it left off as the Zombie Priest's sanity cracks up. His endless swarms of beastly little minions attack the Goon and Franky en masse, and there's no telling how long the brand-new Norton's Pub will last this time around!

Matt Wagner's ready to launch a new Hunter Rose miniseries this fall—but you won't have to wait that long to get a taste of the project. *Grendel: Behold the Devil #0*, a 50¢ primer/preview, offers a prologue and unseen preview art, as well as an interview with Wagner conducted by Matt Brady that discusses the series and Grendel's twenty-fifth anniversary.

MARTHA WASHINGTON DIES



Frank Miller, Dave Gibbons, & Angus McKie take readers back to the future in *Martha Washington Dies*, a one-shot set in the year 2095... the one hundredth birthday of Martha Washington. She is the leader of a small, resolute band that will not forfeit the pursuit of liberty—no matter what the cost. Today, the cost

will be high. Martha has seen much in her hundred years, from the triumphs and tragedies of the battlefield, to the deepest reaches of space. Today, she will finally see the truth. This 24-page book includes a special section of never-before-seen production sketches and drawings that predate Martha's first series, *Give Me Liberty*, along with Frank Miller's original plot notes, all wrapped inside a high-quality card stock cover. This all-new story by two of comics' legendary creators is the unprecedented conclusion to one woman's epic struggle for life's most valuable quality—freedom.

Nicholas Gurewitch's award-winning online strip *The Perry Bible Fellowship* comes to print with the release of *The Perry Bible Fellowship: The Trial of Colonel Sweeto & Other Stories*.



Gilbert Hernandez presents the unusual story of Val Castillo, a promising gymnast with a strange hobby, beginning in *Speak of the Devil #1*. She is secretly the neighborhood peeping Tom. At first she is alone in this, but when a male friend discovers her doings, he joins her into a dark journey of spying and making discoveries about their neighbors that may have been better left alone. Especially secrets that threaten all involved...

The long-delayed comic featuring the "origin" of last season's *Who Wants to Be a Superhero?* winner is on schedule for July release. *Who Wants to Be a Superhero?: Feedback* features an original story by Stan Lee, Will Conrad, & Joe Pimentel.

Rex Mundi creator Arvid Nelson joins with artist Matt Camp to present an alternate future tale in *Zero Killer*, a six-issue miniseries. Brutal gangs struggle for supremacy in a New York City ravaged by nuclear war. All that remains of the once mighty city are skeletal, irradiated skyscrapers, inhabited by thugs who abide by their own twisted rules. While crime lords vie for power and amoral paramilitary forces torment survivors of the devastation, one skilled outcast—the mysterious

Zero Killers



bounty hunter Zero—uses his strength and wits to stay a step ahead of everyone.

The distinctive fantasy art of Charles Vess is not only the inspiration for the *Charles Vess Fairy Princess Statue*, it is the statue—because Vess is not only the designer but also the sculptor for this 10.5" tall statue, which is limited to only 500 pieces. The accompanying numbered certificate of authenticity will feature Vess's original concept drawing for the statue in addition to his signature.

Pathfinder is set to reach theaters this summer—and so are William Paquette's *Pathfinder: Ghost* and *Pathfinder: Viking Statues*. These statues are very limited. Only 350 numbered copies of *Ghost* will be produced, and only 500 numbered copies of *Viking* will be produced—so grab 'em while you can!



Serenity fans can have their cake and eat it, too, thanks to their very own *Serenity Lunch Box*, which features the *Serenity* logo in brilliant litho-printed color on one side, and the iconic image from "Fruity Oaty Bar" commercial on the other, bordered by the exotic intergalactic currency created for the film.

Vinyl model collectors and *Star Wars* fans will want the *Kotobukiya Obi-Wan Kenobi: Episode III Vinyl Model Kit*. This is a 1/7 scale snap-fit kit that can

be assembled in seconds—and the end result is a figure that looks as good as any statue!

Dark Horse collected editions include:

- *Buffy the Vampire Slayer Omnibus Volume Two*, compiling *Ring of Fire* and *A Stake to the Heart*, along with other tales, in a 296-page volume;
- *Criminal Macabre: Two Red Eyes*, collecting the miniseries by Steve Niles & Kyle Hotz;
- *Outer Orbit*, collecting the miniseries by Zach Howard, Sean Murphy, Reed Buccholz, & Charlie Kirchoff;
- *Samurai: Heaven & Earth Volume Two*, collecting the miniseries by Ron Marz & Luke Ross;
- *Sock Monkey: The Inches Incident*, collecting the *Tony Millionaire* miniseries;
- *Star Wars: 30th Anniversary Collection Volume Seven—Darklighter*, reprinting the long-out-of-print graphic novel; and
- *Translucent Volume One*, kicking off the shojo series by Kazuhiro Okamoto.

Voodoo Child



Virgin's First Trade Experience

Last year, Virgin made a splash with the release of a number of comics titles, some produced by talented Indian creators, others produced in part by such well-known talents as Garth Ennis and Andy Diggle, and some produced in cooperation with well-known filmmakers such as John Woo and Guy Ritchie.

Now that Virgin has several issues of their popular series under their publisher's belt, they're collecting some of those series in their first trade paperback offerings.

The first Virgin titles, slated for July release, include *Deepak Chopra Presents The Sadhu*, collecting the series by Gotham Chopra, Ashok Banker, Jeevan Kang, & R. Manikandan; *Dave Stewart's Walk-In*, collecting the bizarre fantasy by former Eurythmic Dave Stewart and co-writer Jeff Parker, with art by Ashish Padlekar; *John Woo's Seven Brothers*

HC, a limited 2500-copy hardcover collection of the series by John Woo, Garth Ennis, & Jeevan Kang; and *Ramayan 3392 AD Volume One*, collecting the SF retelling of the classic *Ramayana*, produced by Deepak Chopra, Shekhar Kapur, Shamik Dasgupta, & Abhishek Singh.

Other Virgin Comics highlights in July include *Ramayan 3392 AD Reloaded #2*, which continues the epic adventure, adding a backup story by Ron Marz and Jim Starlin (who's no stranger to SF/fantasy retellings of classic epics, having done the very same thing with *Gilgamesh* for DC in the 1990's); and the first issue of *Nicolas Cage & Weston Cage's Voodoo Child* (written by Mike Carey and illustrated by Dean Hyrapiet, with a cover by Ben Templesmith), the story of a voodoo curse from the 1860s that takes root in modern-day New Orleans.

Rama Sculpture



Another July first for Virgin: they offer their first statue with the release of *Virgin Comics Presents Rama, The Warrior Prince*, a sculpture by Mark Newman based on an original painting by Alex Ross. The 11.5" tall statue is limited to 1500 pieces, and each piece is hand-numbered on the base.

Ins & Outs

In: *The Civil War Chronicles*, a monthly series that allows readers to experience Marvel's *Civil War* again, in chronological order and without those pesky publishing delays. This series will present a repackaged version of *Civil War* and *Civil War: Front Line* in chronological order, along with some of the more important ancillary titles, and occasional editorial write-ups which will explain some of the events in context of the larger Marvel Universe picture. The first issue of the extra-length series will debut in July.

Out: Recent sellouts include:

- from Marvel—*Fantastic Four #544* (second printing slated for May 2nd release, with an all-new cover by Paul Pelletier); *Omega Flight #1* (second printing slated for May 9th release, with



a cover taken from interior art by Scott Kolins); *Stephen King's Dark Tower: The Gunslinger Born #2* (second printing slated for May 16th release, with a new cover by Stuart Immonen); *New Avengers #28* (no second printing planned); *Ms. Marvel #13* (no second printing planned), and *Thunderbolts #112* (no second printing planned)

- from Image - *After the Cape #1* (a second printing is under consideration, but no decision has been made)

- from Viper - *Lost Books of Eve #1* (second printing planned later this summer)

- from Active Images - *Tim Sale: Black & White* (the publisher hopes to offer the book with extra material later this year through Image)

In: Extra pages for 52 *Week 52*, the finale to the year-long series filling in DC's "missing year." The final issue has expanded to forty-eight pages (including forty story pages) at the same low \$2.50 cost as every other issue of the series. Add in the four cover pages, and you have—appropriately enough—a 52-page 52 *Week 52*... and it's slated to appear on 5/2! (Funny how things work out, huh?)

Johnny Hart Passes

B.C. creator Johnny Hart, who also co-created *The Wizard of Id*, died on April 7th at the age of 76, falling victim to a massive stroke. *B.C.*, which began in 1958 and was created by Hart for almost a half-century until his death, has had bouts with controversy because of some installment's strongly Christian subject matter and other installment's political commentary. Controversy seems to have had no effect on the strip's popularity, though, and it remained one of Creator's Syndicate's most popular offerings. Alas, no collections of *B.C.* or *The Wizard of Id* are currently in print—although we can hope that some savvy publisher will remedy that in the near future.

May's Top Twenty Comics

30 DAYS OF NIGHT

EBEN & STELLA #1

Steve Niles & Kelly Sue DeConnick (W); Justin Randall (A)

(IDW MAR073498 \$3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Remember the return of Stella's vampire husband Eben in the final pages of *30 Days of Night: Dark Days*? Wonder what happened next? Find out in this new miniseries that fills in the gaps between *Dark Days* and *Return to Barrow*.

Why Should You Care?

30 Days of Night remains one of the most clever and innovative vampire concepts in decades, so it's always good news when Steve Niles agrees to take readers back to Barrow for another blood-drenched visit.

52 WEEK #52

Geoff Johns, Grant Morrison, Greg Rucka, & Mark Waid (W); Keith Giffen & Others (A)

(DC FEB070244 \$2.50)

What's the Scoop?

The year-long ensemble-cast odyssey comes to an end in this extra-length finale.

Why Should You Care?

WWIII may be over, but there are still surprises galore in the last issue of this far-reaching series that explored DC's "missing year." And now that 52 has proven that there's an eager audience for well-crafted weekly comics, DC has another weekly series following just seven days later!...

BATMAN #666

Grant Morrison (W); Andy Kubert (A)

(DC MAR070169 \$2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Meet Damian Wayne, the Batman of Tomorrow, in this special issue set fifteen years in the future, when both Gotham and the Dark Knight dynasty have undergone some changes.



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Why Should You Care?

Morrison knows the importance of sense of wonder in comic book storytelling—and he's bringing it back in force with these tales that break away from traditional Batman formula by revitalizing some of the most fondly-remembered story elements of the Dark Knight's first quarter-century, flawlessly blending them with contemporary continuity and storytelling sensibilities.



CAPTAIN AMERICA #26

Ed Brubaker (W); Steve Epting (A)

(Marvel JAN072366 \$2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Captain America's still dead... and if you had any doubts about that, this issue's autopsy should lay them to rest! But does the murder of Steve Rogers mean that Marvel will remain Captain America-less?...

Why Should You Care?

The loss of Steve Rogers is going to lead to some big changes in the Marvelverse in the next few months as readers learn who'll be stepping in to fill the star-spangled void.

COUNTDOWN #51

Paul Dini (W); Keith Giffen & Jesus Saliz (A)

(DC MAR070187 \$2.99)

COUNTDOWN #50

Paul Dini, Jimmy Palmiotti, & Justin Gray (W);

Keith Giffen & Jim Calafiore (A)

(DC MAR070188 \$2.99)

COUNTDOWN #49

Paul Dini & Tony Bedard (W); Keith Giffen &

Carlos Magno (A)

(DC MAR070189 \$2.99)

COUNTDOWN #48

Paul Dini & Adam Beechen (W); Keith Giffen &

David Lopez (A)

(DC MAR070190 \$2.99)

What's the Scoop?

An unexpected death sets off a series of ripples that will eventually touch virtually every character in the DC Universe in this contemporary in-continuity weekly series.

Why Should You Care?

How do you outdo 52? Simple: you take everything the hit weekly series did right and you go even further by setting it firmly in contemporary continuity (where it can affect and interact with other DC series), and you let master writer Paul Dini play with every toy in the DC toolbox, including Superman, Batman, and Wonder Woman!



DARK XENA #1

John Layman (W); Noah Salonga (A)

(Dynamite MAR073330 \$3.50)

What's the Scoop?

When the television series ended, Xena was dead. When the comic book series began, she was alive. Now you'll find out what happened in between!

Why Should You Care?

John Layman ties the comic book series into overall Xena continuity with this "missing piece of the puzzle" story that offers a Xenaesque twist on the "Monkey's Paw" theme of being careful what you wish for, lest it come true.

DRAWING FROM LIFE #1

Jim Valentino (W/A)

(Image MAR071819 \$3.50)

What's the Scoop?

Jim Valentino turns to the subject he knows best—his own life—as the source material for the stories in this autobiographical comic.

Why Should You Care?

Anyone who has read Valentino's brilliant *A Touch of Silver* knows just how skilled he is at conveying the pain and poignancy of real life—and he seasons it all with a sense of humor and a master storyteller's sense of pacing. This book offers several short autobiographical pieces, including one that looks at Valentino's early days as a comic book artist.



FALLEN SON: THE DEATH OF CAPTAIN AMERICA—CAPTAIN AMERICA

Jeph Loeb (W); John Romita Jr. (A)

(Marvel MAR072056 \$2.99)

FALLEN SON: THE DEATH OF CAPTAIN AMERICA—IRON MAN

Jeph Loeb (W); John Cassaday (A)

(Marvel MAR072058 \$2.99)

FALLEN SON: THE DEATH OF CAPTAIN AMERICA—SPIDER-MAN

Jeph Loeb (W); David Finch (A)

(Marvel MAR072057 \$2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Captain America is dead, and Marvel's heroes personify the five stages of grief, with the Captain America book representing bargaining, Spider-Man representing guilt, and Iron Man representing acceptance.

Why Should You Care?

The assassination of Captain America continues to resonate through the Marvel Universe, and these specials show how various characters who have fought alongside (and sometimes against) Steve Rogers cope with the loss. *Captain America* #25 was just the beginning of a long, complex story; these books are the next chapters in that saga.

INCREDIBLE HULK #106

Greg Pak (W); Gary Frank (A)
(Marvel MAR072085 \$2.99)

WORLD WAR HULK PROLOGUE: WORLD BREAKER

Peter David (W); Various (A)
(Marvel MAR072086 \$3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The Hulk is looking for revenge against those who exiled him into space... and as his ship approaches Earth, he looks back on earlier conflicts with the FF, Iron Man, and others. Meanwhile, back on Earth there are many heroes preparing to stand against the Green-Skinned Goliath... but who will stand with him?



Why Should You Care?

The Hulk, long a misguided force for good, is on a quest for vengeance... and he's willing to destroy the whole planet if necessary! This is the ultimate Marvelverse Hulk series, and it's slated to be one of Marvel's biggest summer 2007 events.

JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #9

Brad Meltzer (W);
Ed Benes & Sandra Hope (A)
(DC MAR070204 \$2.99)

JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA #6

Geoff Johns (W);
Dale Eaglesham & Ruy José (A)
(DC MAR070206 \$2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The first meeting of the new Justice League and the new Justice Society continues as both team scour the DCU in search of something... or someone... and that search takes them deep into the recesses of the mysterious Suicide Swamp, where a horrible evil awaits.

Why Should You Care?

Two of the greatest superteams in comic book history... two of the best writers working in comics today... there aren't many sure things in comics, but this is one of them!

KISS 4K #1

Ricky Sprague (W)
Daniel Campos & Kevin Crossley (A)
(Image MAR071880 \$3.99; also available in a limited oversized Destroyer Edition (MAR071881 \$50.00))

What's the Scoop?

The four members of the kabuki-esque rock group learn that they also possess world-protecting warrior spirits and are reborn as the Demon, the Starchild, the King of All Beast, and the Celestial.

Why Should You Care?

Okay, it sounds like a bunch of cosmic mumbo-jumbo—but that's no going to matter to the legions of members of the KISS Army, who are going to love it all the more for that very reason!

MADAME MIRAGE #1

Paul Dini (W); Kenneth Rocafort (A)
(Image MAR071865 \$2.99)

What's the Scoop?

A mysterious femme fatale is taking out the city's villains, even though they hide behind supposedly legitimate enterprises. Who is she, what drives her, and what is her ultimate target?

Why Should You Care?

Paul Dini introduces his latest creation, a beautiful but deadly mystery woman... Gee, wonder if that might have any appeal to comic fans?...

MARVEL ZOMBIES: DEAD DAYS

Robert Kirkman (W); Sean Phillips (A)
(Marvel MAR072097 \$3.99; also available in a signed edition (MAR073422 \$29.99))

What's the Scoop?

You've seen the horrors of the Marvel Zombieverse... but how did this undead world come to be? The answers are here!

Why Should You Care?

Like the Energizer Bunny, the concept that was born out of an old comic book joke just keeps on going. Now Zombie masterminds Kirkman and Phillips give us a hitherto-unrevealed origin, explaining how everything went so very wrong. And yes, it does have another one of those eye-catching Arthur Suydam covers—this one a fold-out!

PAINKILLER JANE #1

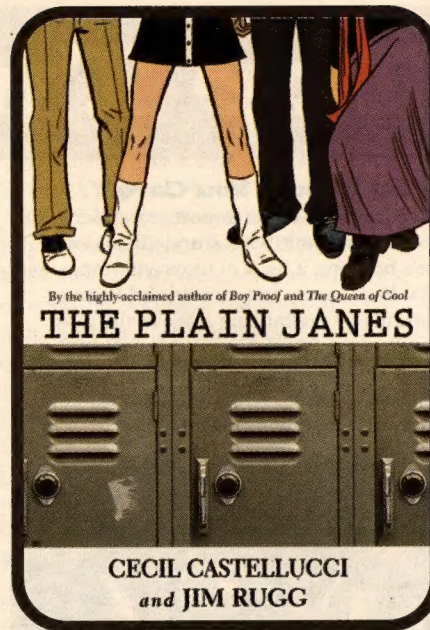
Jimmy Palmiotti with Joe Quesada (W); Lee Moder (A)
(Dynamite MAR073325 \$3.50)

What's the Scoop?

The heroine who can recover from any injury—but who is destined to feel every painful moment of it—returns in an ongoing series timed to take advantage of her Sci-Fi Channel miniseries. And this time, she has a major new villain, The Infidel, who's destined to change her world.

Why Should You Care?

With her very own television series and last month's 25¢ preview book serving as a double introduction to the character, there's bound to be oodles of new readers eager to learn more about Palmiotti & Quesada's high-caliber heroine.



P.L.A.I.N. JANES

Cecil Castellucci (W); Jim Rugg (A)
(Minx/DC FEB070235 \$9.99)

What's the Scoop?

A transfer student feels out of place at her new suburban high school until she finds three other social outcasts who share the same first name. Soon, they create their own secret art gang and set out to shake things up in their small town... but that doesn't sit well with those who like the status quo.

Why Should You Care?

This clever, engaging graphic novel kicks off DC's Minx line, which offers original graphic novels targeted at teenage girls who are looking for something beyond the manga racks—but P.L.A.I.N. Janes is so good that it can be enjoyed anyone who appreciates a well-crafted human interest comic.

SILVER SURFER: REQUIEM #1

J. Michael Straczynski (W); Esad Ribic (A)
(Marvel MAR072109 \$3.99; also available in a signed edition (MAR073425 \$49.99))

What's the Scoop?

For years uncounted, Norin Radd has surfed the galaxy... but now the end of his star-spanning ride could be approaching.

Why Should You Care?

J. Michael Straczynski launches his long-awaited Silver Surfer miniseries just a couple of months before the Silver makes his cinematic debut in the second *Fantastic Four* film. Why not get in on the fun now and get ahead of the crowd?

SPAWN: GODSLAYER #1

Brian Kullgren (W); Philip Tan (A)
(Image MAR071818 \$2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Last year's dark fantasy reimagining of the Spawn concept returns in its own ongoing series. In the first arc, the Godslayer is sent after the brutal tyrant god, the Winter King.

Why Should You Care?

Todd McFarlane's Spawn concept seems tailor-made for the world of Conan-esque fantasy and adventure—and wait til you see how Philip Tan brings it all to life visually!

STRANGERS IN PARADISE #90

Terry Moore (W/A)
(Abstract MAR073061 \$2.99)

What's the Scoop?

After fourteen years, the saga of Katchoo and Francine comes to an end.

Why Should You Care?

Terry Moore has created two of the most endearing and enduring characters in comics, and seeing their story end is almost like seeing old friends move away—you hate for it to happen, but you don't want to miss being their for the final farewells.

TANK GIRL: THE GIFTING #1

Alan C. Martin (W); Ashley Wood (A)
(IDW MAR073496 \$3.99)

What's the Scoop?

After far too long away, Tank Girl returns... but this isn't the Tank Girl you remember. The all-too-ordinary punk look has been abandoned for a classic conservative look that thumbs its nose at now-conformist "anarchic" fashion... because Tank Girl simply refuses to be like everyone else.

Why Should You Care?

Tank Girl co-creator Alan C. Martin revamps his most famous creation for the 21st Century—and he's joined by artist Ashley Wood, who rises to the occasion. The look may be conservative, but the irreverence of the character hasn't changed.

ULTIMATES 2 #13

Mark Millar (W);
Bryan Hitch & Paul Neary (A)
(Marvel OCT062127 \$3.99)

What's the Scoop?

America strikes back against the Liberators... the Defenders return... the true fate of Thor is revealed... and pretty much every hero in the Ultimate Universe plays a role in the finale to this long-running story arc.

Why Should You Care?

Mark Millar & Bryan Hitch say farewell to the Ultimates with this issue—so they're pulling out all the stops to make it the ultimate Ultimates adventure.

Collected Cool: May's Best Reprint Volumes

ACTION HEROES ARCHIVES VOL 2 HC

(DC JAN070280 \$75.00)

Collect classic Charlton-era Blue Beetle stories from *Captain Atom*, *Blue Beetle*, *Mysterious Suspense*, & *Charlton Bullseye*, along with stories never officially published by Charlton before their demise.

FOREVER NUTS: THE EARLY YEARS OF MUTT & JEFF HC

(NBM MAR073608 \$24.95)

Featuring the earliest *Mutt & Jeff* strips by Budd Fisher & Jeff Lindenblatt.

JACK KIRBY'S FOURTH WORLD OMNIBUS VOL 1 HC

(DC JAN070303 \$49.99)

DC kicks off its comprehensive four-volume set of Kirby's grand Fourth World Saga, offered in chronological order so that readers can re-experience the unveiling of Kirby's DC vision just as it was enjoyed by comic fans in the early 1970s. This volume collects *Jimmy Olsen* #133-139, *Forever People* #s 1-3, *New Gods* #s 1-3, and *Mister Miracle* #s 1-3.



NEIL GAIMAN AND CHARLES VESS' STARDUST HC

(Vertigo/DC JAN070377 \$39.99)

Oversized edition of fantasy tale by Gaiman & Vess.

SCHULZ'S YOUTH TP

(About MAR073058 \$14.95)

This volume assembles rarely-seen *Charles M. Schulz's* single-panel cartoons focusing on teen life, supplemented by non-Peanuts panels about preschoolers.

SHOWCASE PRESENTS THE FLASH VOL 1 TP

(DC FEB070297 \$16.99)

SHOWCASE PRESENTS WAR THAT TIME FORGOT VOL 1 TP

(DC FEB070298 \$16.99)

Two more 500+ page phonebook-sized black and white compendia mining DC's rich Silver Age heritage; one features the earliest exploits of Barry Allen, while the other reprints those classic "soldiers 'n' dinosaurs" stories.

SILVER SURFER OMNIBUS VOL 1 HC

(Marvel MAR072137 \$74.99)

Collecting the entire Silver Age run of *Silver Surfer* (#s 1-18), including letters columns, essays, and other bonuses.

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG ARCHIVES VOL 3 TP

(Archie MAR073170 \$7.49)

Collecting *Sonic* #s 9-12 in affordable and durable digest-sized format.

SPIDER-MAN NEWSPAPER STRIPS VOL 1 HC

(Marvel MAR072143 \$34.99)

Now you can enjoy some of the least-known Spidey material by *Stan Lee & John Romita Jr.*, thanks to this hardcover reprinting the first year and a half of the comic strip.

TELLOS COLOSSAL HC

(Image MAR071826 \$39.99)

Collecting the entire *Tellos* fantasy saga by *Todd Dezago & Mike Wieringo* in one massive hardcover volume.

FYI: Great Additions to Your Reference Library

ALTER EGO #68

(TwoMorrows MAR073852 \$6.95)

The enormous comic book contributions of *Jerry Bails*, the father of comics fandom, are highlighted in this special issue.

BIG BIG OVERSTREET PRICE GUIDE VOL 37

(Gemstone JAN073644 \$37.00)

It's a price guide! It's a checklist! It's both, all in one oversized spiral-bound package!

BRUSH STROKES WITH GREATNESS: THE LIFE & ART OF JOE SINNOTT SC

(TwoMorrows MAR073744 \$17.95)

The career of the inker who brought *Jack Kirby's* pencils to life is spotlighted in this biographical study, which also focuses on Sinnott's less-remembered work as a penciller.

DC COMICS: COVERGIRLS HC

(Universe MAR073944 \$39.95)

Louise Simonson takes a look at the female characters of DC Comics throughout the company's history.

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF COMIC BOOK HEROES VOL 1: BATMAN TP

(DC FEB070257 \$19.99)

New edition of long-out-of-print *Michael Fleisher* reference volume.

IMAGE COMICS: ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE SC

(TwoMorrows MAR073745 \$34.95)

This book chronicles the history of Image and its founders, complete with interviews with six of the seven artists who launched Image in 1992.

Hot Commodities: May's Hottest Merchandising & Collectibles

CLASSIC PEANUTS CHARACTER #5: PIGPEN STATUE

(Dark Horse DEC060069 \$39.99)

CLASSIC PEANUTS CHARACTER #6: PEPPERMINT PATTY STATUE

(Dark Horse JAN070103 \$39.99)

Now that the main characters have been released, Dark Horse continues the series with these offerings focusing on *Charlie Brown's* rich supporting cast. These pieces will be produced in far more limited quantities than the core figures, which means that they're going to be very hard to find in the future (hint, hint).

MARTIAN MAN- HUNTER 13" DELUXE FIGURE

(DC Direct OCT060314 \$69.99)

J'Onn J'Onzz is the latest addition to DC's ever-growing line of meticulously-sculpted 1:6 scale action figures. *Martian Manhunter* includes a detailed fabric costume and is packaged with a display stand.

SERENITY PVC SET

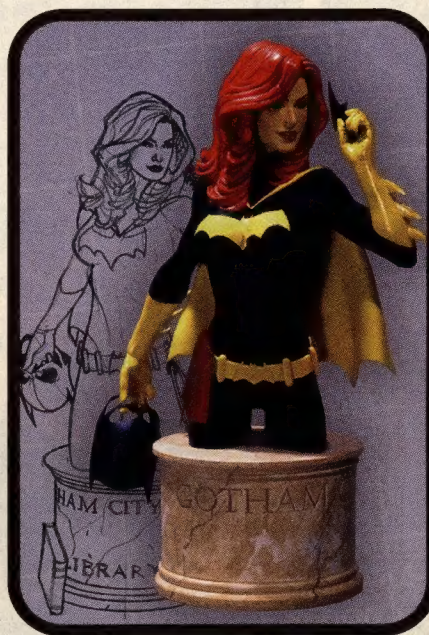
(Dark Horse JAN070105 \$17.99)

Jane, Mal, & River are featured in Dark Horse's first PVC figure set based on *Joss Whedon's* fan-favorite SF creation.

WOMEN OF THE DC UNIVERSE BATGIRL BUST

(DC Direct OCT060315 \$45.00)

John G. Mathews brings *Adam Hughes'* version of Batgirl into the third dimension in this eye-catching collectible mini-bust. Considering Batgirl's enduring fan-fave status, it's likely that this minibust is going to sell out almost as soon as it's released, so grab it while you can!



WONDER WOMAN VS SUPERMAN STATUE

(DC Direct OCT060313 \$195.00)

Two of DC's most iconic characters face off against one another in this powerful sculpture by *Ray Villafane*, based on a design by *Terry Dodson*.

Check 'Em Out: Books You Should Be Reading

GUTSVILLE #1

(Image MAR071820 \$2.99)

Simon Spurrier & Frazer Irving tell the story of a town living inside the leviathan that swallowed them at sea.

GREEN ARROW #74

(DC MAR070202 \$2.99)

All of *Green Arrow's* secrets have been revealed to the citizens of *Star City*. threatening his tenure as mayor... and paving the way for a major change in life of the DC Universe's most famous bowman.

JAMES STURM'S AMERICA HC

(D&Q MAR073414 \$24.95)

Focusing on less sensational times in U.S. history (non-war and pre-Depression), *James Sturm's America* presents a populist portrait of the common people and their dreams.

MARVEL ILLUSTRATED: LAST OF THE MOHICANS #1

(Marvel MAR072062 \$2.99)

Roy Thomas & Steven Kurth adapt the *James Fenimore Cooper* *Natty Bumppo* novel as *Marvel's* first original creation in this new series of classics adaptations.

RAY HARRYHAUSEN PRESENTS WRATH OF THE TITANS #1

(BlueWater MAR073251 \$3.50)

Ray Harryhausen's mythic masterwork *Clash of the Titans* paves the way for this comic book sequel.

SUPERNATURAL: ORIGINS #1

(WildStorm/DC MAR070257 \$2.99)

Fans of the television series will enjoy this prequel focusing on the life of patriarch *John Winchester*.

Y-THE LAST MAN #56

(Vertigo/DC MAR070279 \$2.99)

As the last man and *Agent 355* race toward *Paris*, the group of women protecting the daughter *Yorick* never even knew he sired continues to flee the *Israeli* soldiers led by *Alter*. Will anyone survive the inevitable collision of these three groups? This is the beginning of the final story arc in *Brian K. Vaughan & Pia Guerra's* brilliant SF drama.

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